(c) whether the issue of implementation of various central schemes has also been discussed in the said meeting;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government for effective implementation of such schemes in the region;

(e) whether Government proposes to appoint Special Police Officers in Assam;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons for not considering such officers in the entire region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (d) A meeting of Home Secretaries and Inspector Generals of Police (IGP) Special Branch of North Eastern States was held in Guwahati on 9th October, 2009 to discuss issues such as review of security situation in North Eastern States, progress of implementation of the Modernisation of Police Forces (MPF) scheme, reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme and surrender cum rehabilitation policy. The schemes are reviewed periodically by central teams and also by audit teams from time to time. The funds under the MPF scheme are released on receipt of utilization certificates.

(e) to (g) 1900 Special Police Officers (SPOs) have been sanctioned in the State of Assam. In addition the Government of Assam has been authorized to engage 2000 ex-servicemen as Armed Special Police Officers for security of rail and road projects.

Atrocities against SCs/STs

678. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the atrocities against SCs/STs are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered, accused arrested, cases solved, trial started and conviction achieved during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise, crime-wise including murder, riots and sexual harassment;

(c) the action taken against the offenders including panchayat bodies reported to have punished the SCs/STs harshly for petty offences; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The State/UT-wise and crime-head wise details of cases registered under crimes against persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for the years 2006, 2007 and provisional details for 2008 are at Annexure-I and II, respectively. Statistics for the year 2009 is not available. [*See* Appendix 218 Annexure No. 2]

(c) and (d) Government of India is committed to prevent and combat crimes against vulnerable sections of the society, including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, "Police" and "Public Order" are State subjects and as such the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and

prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. However, the Central Government has issued advisories to the State Governments and UT Administrations from time to time, to give more focused attention to the prevention and control of crimes against SC/ST.

Firing by Sri Lankan Navy on Indian fishermen

679. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sri Lankan Navy has frequently resorted to firing on Indian fishermen of Tamil Nadu while fishing in Indian water resulting in serious injuries and casualties of Indian fishermen;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year; and

(c) what concrete measures Government has taken or proposes to take to protect the Indian fishermen from the firing of Sri Lankan Navy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) There have been reports of incidents of firing on Indian fishermen in Palk Bay. These matters have been taken up very strongly with Sri Lanka and they have been emphasized to refrain from such activities and treat the fishermen in a humane manner. However, Sri Lanka has denied the role of Sri Lankan Navy in these incidents.

The details of alleged attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy during the last one year are given in Statement.

In the Joint Statement of 26 October, 2008, it was agreed to put in place practical arrangements to deal with bonafide fishermen of either sides crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). The cases of arrest of Indian fishermen by Sri Lanka have considerably decreased since the October 2008 understanding. The Government and its Mission in Colombo take up every incident of arrest immediately with the Government of Sri Lanka and ensure early release of those arrested. The welfare of our fishermen is given the highest priority in dealings with Sri Lanka in this issue. Our fishermen have also been advised to not to intrude into the security/sensitive areas earmarked by the Sri Lanka Government adjacent to their coast.

Statement

The details of alleged attacks on Indian fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy during the last one year

Sl.No.	Date	Boat details	Location of attack
1	2	3	4
(A)	08 Nov., 2008	672 Mechanised Boats TN-10-MFB-1023 given the complaint while other boat owners denied	Near Kachchativu